## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 1, wherein the acyl group for X is a carboxyl group.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 1, wherein $R^4$ is an amino group.

7. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 1, wherein L is a $C_{1-10}$ alkylene group.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn) A prodrug of a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

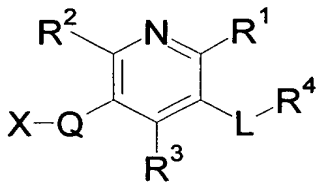
18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) A compound represented by the formula



wherein

$R^1$ and $R^2$ are the same or different and each is

(1) a $C_{1-10}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group;

(2) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(3) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl group;

$R^3$ is a $C_{6-14}$ aryl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s), a halogen atom, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a carboxyl group, a hydroxy group, and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

$R^4$ is an amino group;

L is a $C_{1-10}$ alkylene group;

Q is a bond, a $C_{1-10}$ alkylene group or a $C_{2-10}$ alkenylene group; and

X is

(2) a cyano group;

(3) (3a) a carboxyl group;

(3b) a carbamoyl group;

(3c) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3

substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(3d) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3e) a non-aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3f) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyloxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(3g) a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group;

(3h) a carbamoyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3i) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3j) a mono- or di-$C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3k) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3l) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3m) a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3

substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3n) a $C_{6-14}$ arylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group;

(3o) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3p) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3q) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3r) a non-aromatic heterocyclyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3s) a phosphono group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3t) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{7-13}$ aralkyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3u) a $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(3v) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group; or

(3w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4) (4a) a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(4b) a $C_{1-10}$ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(4c) a $C_{6-14}$ aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group, a carbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfinyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(4d) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4e) a fused aromatic heterocyclyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4f) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(4g) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{6-14}$ aryloxy group;

(5) (5a) a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(5b) a $C_{6-14}$ arylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group and a carbamoyl group; or

(5c) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6) (6a) an amino group;

(6b) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl-$C_{1-10}$ alkylamino group;

(6c) a carboxy-$C_{1-10}$ alkylamino group;

(6d) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted

by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6e) a carbamoylamino group;

(6f) a mono- or di-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoylamino group;

(6g) a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonylamino group;

(6h) a $C_{6-14}$ arylsulfonylamino group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group;

(6i) an aromatic heterocyclyl-sulfonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$alkyl group and a mono- or di-($C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyl)-amino group;

(6j) a mono- or di-($C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyl)-amino group;

(6k) a $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl-carbonylamino group;

(6l) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a cyano group, an optionally halogenated $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group;

(6m) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-carbonylamino group;

(6n) a $C_{8-13}$ arylalkenyl-carbonylamino group;

(6o) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a $C_{6-14}$ aryl group, a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6p) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6q) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group;

(6r) a tetrahydropyranylcarbonylamino group;

(6s) a 4-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1-benzofuranyl-carbonylamino group;

(6t) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(6u) a $C_{6-14}$ aryloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6v) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-carbamoylamino group; or

(6w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(7) (7a) tetrazolyl;

(7b) oxoimidazolidinyl;

(7c) dioxoimidazolidinyl optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7d) oxopiperazinyl;

(7e) dioxopiperazinyl;

(7f) oxodihydrooxadiazolyl;

(7g) dioxoisoindolyl;

(7h) oxazolyl optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7i) dioxooxazolidinyl or dioxothiazolidinyl, each of which is optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7j) 4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-yl or 4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl, each of which is optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7k) 1,3(2H,5H)-dioxo-tetrahydroimidazo[1,5-a]pyridinyl;

(7l) 1,3(2H,5H)-dioxo-10,10a-dihydroimidazo[1,5-b]isoquinolinyl; or

(7m) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-

carbonyl group;

provided that

when X is an ethoxycarbonyl group, then Q is a $C_{1-10}$ alkylene group or a $C_{2-10}$ alkenylene group

or a salt thereof.

23. (New) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is

(2) a cyano group;

(3) (3a) a carboxyl group;

(3b) a carbamoyl group;

(3c) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(3d) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3e) a non-aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3f) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyloxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(3g) a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group;

(3h) a carbamoyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3i) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally

substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3j) a mono- or di-$C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3k) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3l) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3m) a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3n) a $C_{6-14}$ arylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group;

(3o) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3p) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3q) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3r) a non-aromatic heterocyclyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3s) a phosphono group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3t) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{7-13}$ aralkyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3u) a $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(3v) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3

substituent(s) selected from an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group; or

(3w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4) (4a) a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(4b) a $C_{1-10}$ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(4c) a $C_{6-14}$ aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group, a carbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfinyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(4d) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4e) a fused aromatic heterocyclyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4f) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(4g) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{6-14}$ aryloxy group;

(5) (5a) a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(5b) a $C_{6-14}$ arylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group and a carbamoyl group; or

(5c) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(7) (7a) tetrazolyl;

(7b) oxoimidazolidinyl;

(7c) dioxoimidazolidinyl optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7d) oxopiperazinyl;

(7e) dioxopiperazinyl;

(7f) oxodihydrooxadiazolyl;

(7g) dioxoisoindolyl;

(7h) oxazolyl optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7i) dioxooxazolidinyl or dioxothiazolidinyl, each of which is optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7j) 4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-yl or 4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl, each of which is optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7k) 1,3(2H,5H)-dioxo-tetrahydroimidazo[1,5-a]pyridinyl;

(7l) 1,3(2H,5H)-dioxo-10,10a-dihydroimidazo[1,5-b]isoquinolinyl; or

(7m) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group.

24. (New) The compound of claim 22, wherein $R^1$ and $R^2$ are the same or different and each is a $C_{1-10}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group.

25. (New) The compound of claim 22, wherein R3 is a C6-14 aryl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C1-6 alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s) and a halogen atom.

26. (New) The compound of claim 22, wherein Q is a bond.

27. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is

(3) (3a) a carboxyl group;

(3b) a carbamoyl group;

(3c) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(3d) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3e) a non-aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3f) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyloxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(3g) a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group;

(3h) a carbamoyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3i) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3j) a mono- or di-$C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3k) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3l) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3m) a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3n) a $C_{6-14}$ arylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group;

(3o) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3p) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3q) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3r) a non-aromatic heterocyclyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3s) a phosphono group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3t) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{7-13}$ aralkyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3u) a $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(3v) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted by

a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group; or

(3w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4) (4a) a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(4b) a $C_{1-10}$ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(4c) a $C_{6-14}$ aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group, a carbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfinyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(4d) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4e) a fused aromatic heterocyclyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4f) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(4g) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{6-14}$ aryloxy group;

(5) (5a) a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(5b) a $C_{6-14}$ arylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3

substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group and a carbamoyl group; or

(5c) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(6) (6a) an amino group;

(6b) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl-$C_{1-10}$ alkylamino group;

(6c) a carboxy-$C_{1-10}$ alkylamino group;

(6d) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6e) a carbamoylamino group;

(6f) a mono- or di-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoylamino group;

(6g) a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonylamino group;

(6h) a $C_{6-14}$ arylsulfonylamino group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group;

(6i) an aromatic heterocyclyl-sulfonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$alkyl group and a mono- or di-($C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyl)-amino group;

(6j) a mono- or di-($C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyl)-amino group;

(6k) a $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl-carbonylamino group;

(6l) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a cyano group, an optionally halogenated $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group;

(6m) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-carbonylamino group;

(6n) a $C_{8-13}$ arylalkenyl-carbonylamino group;

(6o) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a $C_{6-14}$ aryl group, a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-

carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6p) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6q) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group;

(6r) a tetrahydropyranylcarbonylamino group;

(6s) a 4-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1-benzofuranyl-carbonylamino group;

(6t) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(6u) a $C_{6-14}$ aryloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6v) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-carbamoylamino group; or

(6w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group.

28. (New) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is a carboxyl group.

29. (New) The compound of claim 22, which is 5-(aminomethyl)-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)-6-neopentylnicotinic acid;
5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)nicotinic acid;
methyl 3-{[5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)pyridin-3-yl]methoxy}-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylate;
{[2-isobutyl-6-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)-5-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)pyridin-3-yl]methyl}amine;
methyl 3-({[5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)pyridin-3-yl]acetyl}amino)benzoate;

N-[5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)pyridin-3-yl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide,
or a salt thereof.

30. (New) A pharmaceutical agent comprising a compound of claim 22 or a salt thereof.

31. (New) The pharmaceutical agent of claim 30, which is an agent for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes, diabetic complications, impaired glucose tolerance or obesity.

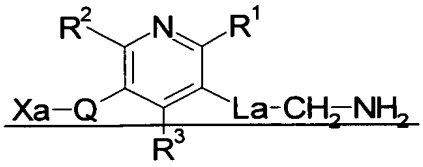
32. (New) A peptidase inhibitor comprising a compound of claim 22 or a salt thereof.

33. (New) The inhibitor of claim 32, wherein the peptidase is dipeptidyl dipeptidase-IV.

34. (New) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes, diabetic complications, impaired glucose tolerance or obesity in a mammal, which comprises administering a compound of claim 22 or a salt thereof to the mammal.

35. (New) A method of inhibiting peptidase in a mammal, which comprises administering a compound of claim 22 or a salt thereof to the mammal.

36. (New) A production method of a compound represented by the formula




(I-a)

wherein

$R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and Q are as defined in claim 22;

La is a bond or a $C_{1-9}$ alkylene group; and

Xa is

(3) (3a) a carboxyl group;

(3b) a carbamoyl group;

(3c) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(3d) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3e) a non-aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3f) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyloxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(3g) a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group;

(3h) a carbamoyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3i) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3j) a mono- or di-$C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3k) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3

substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3l) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3m) a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3n) a $C_{6-14}$ arylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group;

(3o) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3p) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3q) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3r) a non-aromatic heterocyclyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3s) a phosphono group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3t) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{7-13}$ aralkyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3u) a $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(3v) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group; or

(3w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoyl group optionally

substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4) (4a) a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(4b) a $C_{1-10}$ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(4c) a $C_{6-14}$ aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group, a carbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfinyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(4d) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4e) a fused aromatic heterocyclyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4f) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(4g) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{6-14}$ aryloxy group;

(5) (5a) a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(5b) a $C_{6-14}$ arylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group and a carbamoyl group; or

(5c) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclylthio group optionally

substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6) (6a) an amino group;

(6b) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl-$C_{1-10}$ alkylamino group;

(6c) a carboxy-$C_{1-10}$ alkylamino group;

(6d) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6e) a carbamoylamino group;

(6f) a mono- or di-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoylamino group;

(6g) a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonylamino group;

(6h) a $C_{6-14}$ arylsulfonylamino group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group;

(6i) an aromatic heterocyclyl-sulfonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$alkyl group and a mono- or di-($C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyl)-amino group;

(6j) a mono- or di-($C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyl)-amino group;

(6k) a $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl-carbonylamino group;

(6l) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a cyano group, an optionally halogenated $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group;

(6m) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-carbonylamino group;

(6n) a $C_{8-13}$ arylalkenyl-carbonylamino group;

(6o) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a $C_{6-14}$ aryl group, a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6p) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the

$C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6q) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group;

(6r) a tetrahydropyranylcarbonylamino group;

(6s) a 4-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1-benzofuranyl-carbonylamino group;

(6t) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(6u) a $C_{6-14}$ aryloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6v) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-carbamoylamino group; or

(6w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(7) (7a) tetrazolyl;

(7b) oxoimidazolidinyl;

(7c) dioxoimidazolidinyl optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7d) oxopiperazinyl;

(7e) dioxopiperazinyl;

(7f) oxodihydrooxadiazolyl;

(7g) dioxoisoindolyl;

(7h) oxazolyl optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7i) dioxooxazolidinyl or dioxothiazolidinyl, each of which is optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7j) 4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-yl or 4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,3-

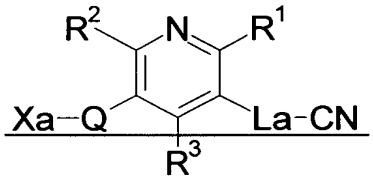
oxazolidin-5-yl, each of which is optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7k) 1,3(2H,5H)-dioxo-tetrahydroimidazo[1,5-a]pyridinyl;

(7l) 1,3(2H,5H)-dioxo-10,10a-dihydroimidazo[1,5-b]isoquinolinyl; or

(7m) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

or a salt thereof, which comprises subjecting a compound represented by the formula



(II)

wherein each symbol is as defined above, or a salt thereof to a reduction reaction.

37. (New) The compound of claim 22, wherein $R^3$ is a phenyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s) and a halogen atom.

38. (New) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is

(3) (3a) a carboxyl group;

(3b) a carbamoyl group;

(3c) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(3d) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3e) a non-aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3g) a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group;

(3h) a carbamoyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3i) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3j) a mono- or di-$C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3k) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3l) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3r) a non-aromatic heterocyclyloxy-carbonyl group;

(4) (4b) a $C_{1-10}$ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(4c) a $C_{6-14}$ aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group, a carbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfinyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(4d) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a

$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6) (6d) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6l) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a cyano group, an optionally halogenated $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group;

(6o) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a $C_{6-14}$ aryl group, a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(6p) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group.

39. (New) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is

(3) (3a) a carboxyl group;

(3b) a carbamoyl group;

(3c) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(3d) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3e) a non-aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3g) a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl

group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group;

(3h) a carbamoyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3i) a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3j) a mono- or di-$C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3k) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

(3l) an aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group; or

(3r) a non-aromatic heterocyclyloxy-carbonyl group.

40. (New) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is

(3) (3a) a carboxyl group;

(3e) a non-aromatic heterocyclyl-$C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group; or

(3r) a non-aromatic heterocyclyloxy-carbonyl group.

41. (New) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is

(4) (4b) a $C_{1-10}$ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(4c) a $C_{6-14}$ aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio group, a carbamoyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfinyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group); or

(4d) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group.

42. (New) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is

(6) (6d) a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6l) a $C_{6-14}$ aryl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a cyano group, an optionally halogenated $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group;

(6o) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group, a $C_{6-14}$ aryl group, a $C_{7-13}$ aralkyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(6p) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $c_{1-6}$ alkyl group (the $c_{1-6}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a $c_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a $c_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group.